

Repeater Notes for PARC AGM Thursday April 5 2012

Repeater Site – Building maintenance

The general state of the building is now very good, but, the pointing of the brickwork is still to be completed. Volunteers please!

Our owner has confirmed that he does not intend to charge us for the electricity we use so we really need to show our appreciation by sorting the brickwork.

Thanks for the weed killing Evan!

Aerials

We still need to decide on a programme of aerial replacements, and I recommend that we purchase really good quality to save this ongoing problem of unsatisfactory performance. We have excellent electronics being spoilt by inferior aerials. Currently we are using a tri-bander at 90' for GB3PW receive and it is possible, with a duplexer to use it for GB3CW receive as well. For CW receive, since the failure of the aerial at 120', we are using a quarter-wave at 25'. For both repeaters' transmit we use a collinear at 40'. Ideally, with cavity filters for both repeaters, we could use one aerial for each repeater. Unfortunately costs are rather prohibitive for 2m and due to the 1.6MHz spacing on 70cm, there are no commercial filters for such a narrow spacing. This being the case, I propose that we install two new aerials for GB3CW as the performance of GB3PW is reasonable.

Repeater Equipment

GB3CW

We now have at long last, no thanks to RSGB for submitting the wrong form to OFCOM, Echolink working on CW and it seems to perform very well, as usual, the only problem is lack of local users, hearing stations from all over the world accessing CW but getting no replies is very frustrating. I understand we had a call from an American warship! The problem is lack of radio amateurs in the coverage area of CW, and as mentioned above, the poor aerial is not helping. I attach the log of calls through the system.

GB3PW

The Tait is working well and has proved to be a very good investment. We are still on the look-out for some commercial cavity filters (see above) which will ensure stability in all temperatures.

6m repeater

We are still looking for a suitable Tait T355/356 commercial repeater to convert but no luck so far.

Beacon

As mentioned last year, and reiterated in RadCom this month that there will only be two 432MHz beacons remaining active in the UK. If anyone would like to get involved with a beacon project, please talk to me.

Dave GW4NQJ.